

News about your community

Karin Uhlich

Council Member

A Note from Karin

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Tucsonans,

In recent Ward 3 communication, I have highlighted several significant issues that have been the focus of Mayor and Council (M&C) this summer. While I know that the City of Tucson is not alone in our struggle for long term fiscal stability, we have also not shied away from: taking historic steps to establish new water policy; considering major changes to the structure of our City government; and seeking regional cooperation and assuring long term safeguards for our transit system, City taxpayers, bus riders, and Sun Tran workers.

In November, City voters will face important decisions with Propositions 400 and 401. Proposition 400 is the proposed Core Services Tax question which would raise the City sales tax cap from 2% to 2.5 % to preserve essential services like: public safety, streets/transit, and parks/recreation. Concurring with City information that estimates a 50 million dollar deficit in the City's budget for next year, a citizen committee recommended M&C send the Sales Tax question to the ballot. Knowing the degree of cuts already experienced by the City over the last few years, I voted to send the question to City voters. Your vote will guide planning for City services into the future. More information is available at:

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/coretax.

Proposition 401 includes City Charter Amendments related to governance and management. When the issue came before M&C on July 7th, there were two primary areas in the proposed package that I hoped to strengthen. My first suggestion was a change to the proposed hiring/ firing authority for department directors, and the second was a request to separate the issues into individual ballot questions. While I was in the minority on these suggestions, I continue to be optimistic about the ongoing dialogue and increasing community interest in these issues. To listen to M&C's meeting on this issue at the July 7th Regular Session, go to: http://www.tucson12.tv/programs/MayorandCouncil. Both of these issues are complex, and I encourage you to educate yourself in the coming months.

Lastly, I hope you'll read about and join us in engaging youth leadership, celebrating bats, and protecting our wildlife!



Every Voice in Action Foundation Joins Ward 3 for Youth Leadership Projects

By: Judith L. Anderson, Ph.D., President & CEO - Every Voice in Action Foundation

Ward 3 and Every Voice in Action Foundation are preparing to award up to \$15,000 for Youth Voice projects and events in Ward 3 during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. Look for a Request for Proposals (RFP) in early September, with applications due approximately 3 weeks later.

This RFP will fund projects and events that have significant youth leadership and that promote points of view of youth in Ward 3 and/or work toward creating a stronger and improved community as defined by youth.

Schools (teachers), non-profit 501(c)3 organizations, and government programs are eligible to apply for grants of \$100-\$1,500. Teachers in schools beyond Ward 3's borders may apply if their class or club has at least 50% attendance by students who live in Ward 3.

To receive the Request for Proposals by email, contact andrea@everyvoicefoundation.org.



Join Us for Bat Night

By: Ellen Benjoya Skotheim, Creative Director—Rillito River Project

The Rillito River Project presents Bat Night 2010 featuring a collaboration with the University of Arizona to bring the riparian "disappeared" back to the riverbed along with a large sandbox where children will be encouraged to use the sand to explore their imaginations.

Bat Night takes place on Saturday, September 11th at 5:30 p.m. in the Rillito riverbed, east of Campbell Avenue Bridge. At sunset, 40,000 bats will fly out from underneath the bridge to forage for food. Tucson's urban bats are a natural treasure and we welcome everyone to meet their nocturnal neighbors.

Bat Night 2010 is free and open to the public. Please bring a flashlight, a blanket to sit on and your own drinking water. In case of rain, the event will take place the following evening.

For more information on the Rillito River Project, please visit www.RillitoRiverProject.org. Contact for this event is Ellen Skotheim, eskotheim@aol.com,or by phone (520) 955-3429.



Have you seen Coyotes in your neighborhood?

By: Lisa Ross

The Ward 3 Council Office has had a few calls from concerned constituents about the sightings of coyotes within the ward. I would like to share with you some recommendations that wildlife organizations and the Arizona Game and Fish Department have shared with me since enforcement and trapping is only an option when a coyote has attacked a person, which by the way, is very rare. All of us within the city are reminded to feed our pets inside (avoid feeding feral cats), never leave pets unattended especially at dusk and dawn when coyotes are most active. Secure garbage containers and eliminate odors by cleaning your trashcan. If you have more questions or want to learn more about wildlife within Arizona, contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department at 1-602-942-3000 or visit their website at: http://www.azgfd.gov/.

NEW PERMIT RULES, "CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY NIGHT" MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR BUSINESS OWNERS



By: Michael Carson, City of Tucson Public Information Office



Doing business with the City of Tucson's Planning & Development Services Department (PDSD) continues to get easier with recent changes to the Land Use Code (LUC) and the addition of "Certificate of Occupancy Night" (C of O).

Recent changes to the LUC have streamlined zoning review for businesses obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy and moving into an existing building. It is no longer necessary to research the previous use or draw a site plan for the new use. For any use permitted under the current zoning of the site, so long as the existing improvements and all parking is retained, LUC review for parking and other development regulations is not required. This change can save business renters weeks of zoning work. For property owners, it means that many buildings that are empty because of zoning issues can once again be occupied. For the public it means better use of resources. Building Code requirements still apply. The impact of the changes will be regularly monitored and reviewed at the end of twelve months.

The next "Certificate of Occupancy Night" will be Thursday, August 26, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Offered the last Thursday of the month since April, this service allows any new or existing business to secure a C of O as required by City rules. PDSD offices are located downtown at the City/County Public Works Building, 201 N. Stone Ave., 1st floor.

Documents required for a C of O are the SITE plan and FLOOR plan and, if available, the last approved C of O for the space or building. A fee of \$232.50 will be charged to cover the cost of Plan Review and Inspection. PDSD has made it possible to request a search of these documents from its records department in advance by emailing the Site address (and suite #) to CofOResearchRequest@tucsonaz.gov Please include name, business name and contact information. For special service by appointment, contact Beth Grant, Planning and Development Services, at 837-4921 or Beth.Grant@tucsonaz.gov



Sun Tran Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility

By: Tom Fisher, Project Manager TDOT Transit Services

Phase 3 of the Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility went out to bid in June. Bids were opened July 14th and the low bidder was DL Withers Construction Company. We should be awarding them the contract within a week and then they will begin construction in early August. This City of Tucson project is being funded with \$16.022 million in ARRA Federal Stimlus dollars and \$2.9 million in RTA dollars.

DID YOU KNOW?

By: Tamara Prime

Did you know that there are more than 60 Boards and Commissions currently operating in the City of Tucson? The groups are made up of dedicated community volunteers who are donating their time and expertise to make Tucson a better place. The Mayor and Council rely heavily on these groups to weigh in on a wide range of issues including such things as: historic preservation, land use, veteran's affairs, housing, womens' issues, and transit. Membership qualifications and expectations vary according to the group and its purpose. While appointees are often required to live in the Ward that they are appointed to represent, that isn't the case 100% of the time. To view a full list and description of City Boards and Commissions, go to http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boardscommissions. If you are willing to serve on a Board or Commission for the Ward 3 office, call Tamara Prime at 791-4711. We are currently looking for people interested in serving on the Parkwise and Human Relations Commissions.



Neighborhood Services for the City's New FY 2011

By: Neighborhood Planning and Support Section of the City's Housing and Community Development Department

We are happy to announce that the approved City budget for this new fiscal year includes funding to continue mailing services for neighborhood associations. Neighborhood associations can prepare up to two [2] mailings from now through June 2011. The mailing can be a postcard or a two-page or four-page newsletter. Neighborhood mailing requests should be e-mailed to:

neighborhood@tucsonaz.gov.

As in previous years, newsletters will be reviewed for compliance with City content rules and will be printed and distributed by mail or returned for hand delivery as specified by neighborhoods using the service. (Please note that we are exploring whether neighborhood newsletter services might be expanded to neighborhoods that select partial or full alternatives to distribution of newsletters by mail.)

Other services that our section will continue to provide this coming fiscal year, include:

- posting of neighborhood association newsletters on the City website
- providing tools and supplies for neighborhood clean-ups
- providing roll-off containers for neighborhood clean-ups (maximum of eight [8] roll-offs per neighborhood per year)

We are very pleased that we are able to continue providing these services that help enhance neighborhood quality of life through communication and shared activities.



Neighborhood Watch

By: Lisa Ross

Neighborhood Watch is a program of neighbors watching out for each other during the workday, evenings, vacations, or any other times of absence. The purpose of this program is to create an alert to your neighborhood by using simple crime prevention methods. Kara Curtis, Community Service Officer from Westside TPD says that whether you choose to have a registered Neighborhood Watch or not, keep your neighborhood safe by keeping shrubbery trimmed, keep your address visible, use deadbolt locks on exterior doors and use 3"screws in striker plates. Use a peep hole before opening your door, keep porch lights on at night, create a contact list of neighbors (email, phone numbers), record serial numbers and mark your property.

Remember to always report any suspicious activity to police and notify your neighbors. For more information on this program and other crime prevention tips, visit: http://tpdinternet.tucsonaz.gov/crimeprevention/

RIBBON CUTTING ON MOUNTAIN AVENUE

By: George Pettit

Wow! Traveling north on Mountain Avenue from Ft. Lowell Road, where there previously was an open ditch (mosquito factory), a patch-work of asphalt, a bumpy and interesting bicycle ride has just been improved!

On June 12th, Council Member Uhlich and her staff, along with Arizona Senator Paula Aboud, former Council Member Jerry Anderson, representatives from Richland Heights West, Mountain View and Campus Farms Neighborhoods, Borderlands Construction (the contractor), City of Tucson Transportation Staff, Simon Donovan and Ofelia Zepeda (project artists), folks from Casa de los Ninos Thrift Store (the event was at their store), were all part of the celebration for the completion of this road project.

The project brought rubberized asphalt, sidewalk improvements, bike paths, some street lighting, street scaping, public art, underground drainage, water harvesting, etc., to the stretch of Mountain Avenue from Fort Lowell Road to Roger Road.

After speeches from various participants of the program, a couple of poems from Tohono Oódham Poet, Ms. Ofelia Zepeda, and food and drink supplied by the Guadalajara Grill, Lucky J's, and Casa de los Ninos Thrift Store, the Ribbon was cut!

A special thank you to the businesses that donated to the event, the folks from MainStreet that helped organize the event, and the neighborhood people that came out.



Council Member Uhlich speaking to the crowd.



The ribbon cutting..



A great turnout!

Ward 3 Conference Room

By: Lisa Ross

We are pleased to provide a nice and spacious room for your group meetings. This past year, the list of users for our room has grown tremendously and we need to point out, that due to City regulations, the use of our room is to be strictly for non-profit groups. Any admission for classes, charges for supplies, etc. are prohibited when using our conference room.

We look forward to working with your group and providing the space you need. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.



Wouldn't that be cool?

By: Miguel Ortega

Imagine you are driving west on Miracle Mile at dusk on a warm, Tucson summer evening 5 or 10 years from now. You drive by Georgia O'Keefe's famous Ghost Ranch sign to your right taking you back to Tucson's glory days. In fact, you notice several newly restored historic signs dotted all along Miracle Mile. As you approach Oracle Road, there is John Wayne on horse back in one of his epic movies—that is, his moving image is projected onto the big screen from the old De-Anza at the newly developed Cactus Drive-In.

Now, wouldn't that be cool?

The Cactus Drive-In idea is part of a larger vision to revitalize the economy of the Oracle Road area by bringing back its place in history as the old gateway to downtown Tucson. If you have seen the already iconic Tucson Gateway Saguaro on Oracle & Drachman and have been to the annual Historic Miracle Mile Festival, chances are you get the vision and embrace the mission.

Over 1,000 "friends" of the recently created Facebook page dedicated to the Cactus Drive-In effort certainly do. Charlie Spillar and Demion Clinco are leading this effort in partnership with the Ward 3 Office, City of Tucson staff, local businesses, and many other volunteers who have helped with planning and the storing of old De-Anza equipment.

To date, a workable location (4 acres are needed) is being sought and researched. The hope is that this drive -in will be located within the Oracle Area Revitalization Plan (Miracle Mile / Stone / Speedway / Fairview).

In the meantime, this effort continues to gain a significant amount of community support and media attention thanks to hard working volunteers who can see John Wayne, bigger than life, on the horizon.

Yup, very cool indeed.

For more information on this project, please see links below:

Cactus Drive-In On Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=133259103368525&v=info&ref=ts

Miracle Mile no longer gives us heebie jeebies

http://tucsoncitizen.com/rynski/tag/tucson%e2%80%99s-oracle-area-revitalization-project/

Oracle Area Revitalization Plan

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/planning/prog proj/projects/oracle/index.html

2 trying to bring back drive-in

http://azstarnet.com/business/loca<u>l/article 370ccb4a-b52d-5a66-b090-e5a05dd0760a.html</u>



By: Linda Mehall

August

August 18th—Ward 3 Neighbors' Alliance Meeting. 6pm at Woods Library (3445 N. First Avenue). Topic: "Safety and Security TPD & U of A PD." Info: Marc Haberman at 881-4582. <u>Bleu55@gmail.com</u>

August 26th—Certificate of Occupancy Night: "Making Things Easier for Business Owners." 5-7pm in the Planning and Development Services Department --City/Cty Public Works Building, 201 N. Stone, 1st floor. Info: 837-4921.

September

September 3 – Ward 3 closed for furlough day.

September 6—Labor Day, all City offices closed.

September 11—2010 Bat Night! Campbell Avenue Bridge at the Rillito River. Events begin at 5:30pm. More Info: www.Rillitoriverproject.org or Ellen Skotheim at 955-3429.

September 15—Ward 3 Neighbors' Alliance Meeting. 6pm at Woods Library (3445 N. First Avenue). Topic: "The Going Green Community Fair." Info: Marc Haberman at 881-4582. Bleu55@gmail.com

September 27—Community Conversation with Council Member Uhlich. Topic: "Proposition 400—Core Tax." 6-8pm. More info: Ward 3 Council Office 791-4711.

Look for the "New" Seasonal W3 Newsletter in December 2010

By: Ward 3 Staff

The Ward 3 Newsletter will be published quarterly/seasonal starting December 2010. It will continue to provide important, resourceful, and informative news as in previous editions.

In the meantime we will keep you informed of important up-to-date information and event dates in our weekly eblasts.

If you haven't signed up to receive either publication, please write to Ward3@tucsonaz.gov and tell us you would like to be a part of our mailing list.

Important Numbers

City Clerk—791-4213

Code Enforcement—791-5843

Development Services—791-5550

Department of Transportation - 791-4371

Environmental Services—791-3171

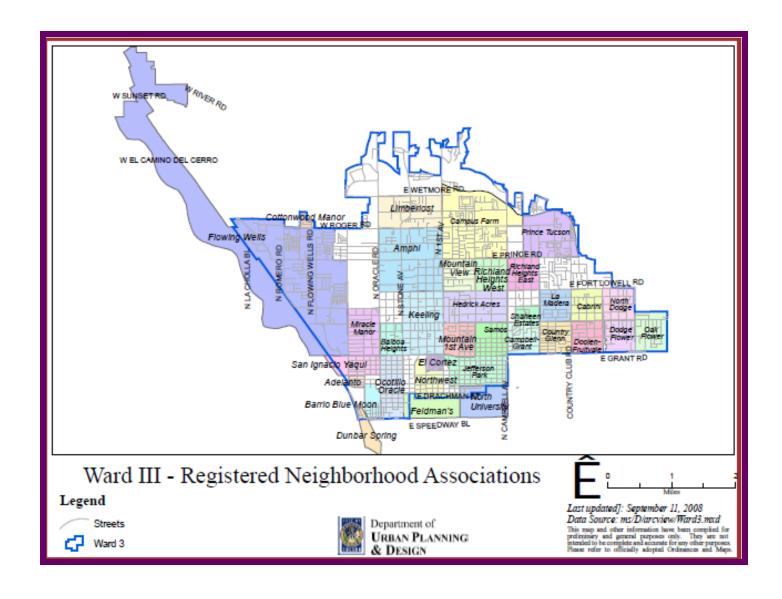
Graffiti Removal - 792-2489

Housing & Community Development - 791-4171

Mayor & Council Hotline—791-4700

Police—Non Emergency—791-4444

Sun Tran—791-9222



Ward 3 Staff

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